

IN THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent to a mammal which has airway subepithelial fibrosis and matrix deposition ~~chronic airway remodeling~~, wherein

(a) said agent inhibits an activity or expression of a component of an arginine metabolic pathway in a tissue affected by airway subepithelial fibrosis and matrix deposition ~~chronic airway remodeling~~, and

(b) said component is not a nitric oxide synthase (NOS).

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said agent is capable of binding to the component or a polynucleotide encoding the component.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein said component is an arginase.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said component is a cationic amino acid transporter.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein said component is downstream of an arginase in the pathway.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said agent inhibits the expression of the component by RNA interference or an antisense mechanism.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said agent encodes or comprises an siRNA capable of inhibiting the expression of ARG1 in said tissue by RNA interference.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said agent encodes or comprises an siRNA capable of inhibiting the expression of CAT2 in said tissue by RNA interference.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said agent is α -difluoromethylornithine.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said agent is lysine or a cationic polypeptide.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

14-25. (Cancelled)